of CGHS Delhi had gone on strike during the period 25.11.2005 to 8.12.2005.

The reasons for the strike cited by the authorized local chemists was late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate.

(c) The number of times authorized local chemists had gone on strike during 2005 are as under:-

(1) 17.02.2005 to 28.2.2005

(2) 25.11.2005 to 8.12.2005

(3) 25.03.2005 to 18.4.2005

(d) and (e) Adequate quantity of medicines are available in CGHS dispensaries. However, when the authorized chemists are on strike, any drug prescribed by the specialists are not available in the dispensary, the CGHS beneficiaries including pensioner beneficiaries are permitted to purchase such medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

Adequate funds have been allocated for clearing the pending bills of the Authorized local chemists to avoid such situation.

Registered Nursing Institutions in Uttaranchal

1256. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered nursing institutions, both Government and private, approved by the Indian Nursing Council and the number of such institutions in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether the Council has prescribed any guidelines for the approval of such institutions and whether any such instances have been reported to the irregular approval of those institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government on this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) There are 1328 registered Nursing Institutions approved by Indian Nursing Council (INC) as on 31st March 2005 out of which 979 are for General Nursing & Midwifery (GNM) course and 349 for the B. Sc. (Nursing) course. Out of 979 General Nursing & Midwifery (GNM) course

institutions 144 are in Government Sector and 835 in Private Sector. Further, out of 349 B. Sc. (Nursing) course institutions 22 are in Govt. Sector and 327 in Private Sector. So far as the State of Uttranchal is concerned, there are two institutions approved by Indian Nursing Council (INC) as on 31st March 2005, out of which one each for GNM & B. Sc. (N) course and both are in private Sector.

(b) and (c) Indian Nursing Council has prescribed the guidelines for approval of such institutions. There is no such instance of irregular approval of any institution has been reported.

Bird Flu in South East Asia

1257. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bird-flu is fast picking up in South-East Asian countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a real cause of worry in our country as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up a bird-monitoring project to guard against this menace, especially in the coastal region of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The disease is spreading in South East Asian countries as well as in Europe & Africa. In Europe, the Avian Influenza has been reported in wild birds as well as in poultry. In India also, the disease has been reported in Navapur Taluka of Maharashtra and Uchchal Taluka of Gujarat.

Department of Animal Husbandry informed that there is no real cause of panic, as the disease is localized in the small pocket of Maharashtra, bordering the part of Gujarat. The disease has been contained in the affected areas. All the birds have been culled in the infected as well as surveillance zone and disinfection and sanitation process is undergoing in the area.